



# LINES & LEADERS

Newsletter of the Connecticut Fly Fishermen's Association

Volume 24, No. 2

October 1996

Organized "To Preserve and Promote the Pleasures and Traditions of Fly Fishing and to Conserve Game-Fish Waters."

## OCTOBER MEETING

### *Pennsylvania Spring Creeks* *Richard Jogodnick*

Rich is currently writing a book on entomology and has written several articles for local New York and Pennsylvania magazines. He also had a radio show for three and a half years. Dick said the show was about veterinary medicine until the first fly fisherman called.

This program is going to be on some of the famous Pennsylvania spring creeks. If you're planning on fishing them, ever, don't miss it!

**PLACE:** Veterans Memorial Clubhouse  
Sunset Ridge  
East Hartford, CT  
**DATE:** Wednesday, October 9  
**TIME:** Fly Tying - 7:00pm  
Program - 7:30pm



## Walking Weekend

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## From the Vest of the President



We had a real good time at September's monthly meeting. Lots of storytelling and laughing. Of course, with John Springer doing the program, you can count on about a joke a minute. It was fun. Thanks, John.

Jeff Passante, the president of the HFFA, was also at our meeting and gave us an update on their quest to change the water flows on the Housatonic. This would protect the trout in the summer. I'm happy to report they've gotten some positive results. Let me quote from the Housatonic Quill, President's message: "Basically, the major issue, i.e. whether river flows in the summer would be released in order to protect the trout or released for the convenience of the boaters was settled in our favor. The trout will be protected in the future and this is a major victory for the river and for its aquatic life." There are still other issues to resolve, but Jeff and the members of HFFA have dramatically improved the future of the Hous. Thanks, guys.

I announced at our September meeting that the board had decided to change the dates of our insurance raffle. You will be receiving the tickets soon. We figured it would be nice for the winners to get the gift certificates before Christmas. The drawing will be at the clubhouse on December 11, 1996. Lou Tabory will be our speaker that evening.

We have also decided not to have an Expo this year, but we're talking about doing something in 1998. There are so many shows around and more coming on line that we thought we might do something different. Anyway, we're going to take this year off and think it over. If anybody has any ideas, please let me know.

Jack Smola, our new Environmental V.P., is going to need a hand making some repairs on the rearing pool. An underground pipe has sprung a leak, causing greatly reduced flow through the pool. As a result, there were no fish put in the pool for a fall stocking. If anybody has any expertise in this area, please give Jack a call. We could use some advice on how to make this repair. 860-763-1856.

Fishing: It's September 13, 1996. I hear the Albacore are here and some club members have already connected. I'm envious. The Willi was shocked and three hundred fish were counted.

*Continued on page 2*



**Membership** - We are currently at 356 members, which is a good number for this time of year.

Ed.

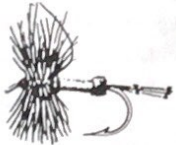
## Thanks to CFFA

As many of you already know, John Springer and a small band of CFFA volunteers have been teaching fly tying and fly fishing at the American School For the Deaf. CFFA has been sponsoring a picnic at John's home, in Clinton, as a graduation present for the kids. Ed Peltier, a representative from the school, brought some of the students to our September meeting. He expressed his, the school's and the kid's heart felt thanks to John and CFFA.

### President's Message - continued from page 1

Larry Johnson and I went out West for a few days in late August. The catching wasn't great, but we each landed a couple of nice fish, and a few small ones. We did issue a warning though, "We'll be back." (Ever see a trout giggle?)

See you Wednesday,  
Charlie Place




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## COMING EVENTS

CFFA Board Meeting	2 Oct 96
CFFA Membership Meeting, <b>Richard Jogodnick</b>	11 Sep 96
CFFA Board Meeting	6 Nov 96
CFFA Membership Meeting, <b>Dan Trello</b>	13 Nov 96
Fly Fishing Show, Somerset, NJ Contact Chuck Furimsky or Barry Serviente, 800-420-7582	24-26 Jan 97
CFFA Annual Banquet The Colony, Vernon, CT	8 Feb 97

## Welcome NEW MEMBERS!

The CFFA would like to welcome our new members.

Jim Zocco                      Chet Zocco  
Steven J. Siracusa          Kenneth Brannin

You folks are encouraged to participate in all the activities CFFA has to offer. That way CFFA grows and becomes more vibrant. If you have any questions or suggestions please do not hesitate to approach any of the board members listed on the last page. Your suggestions regarding the **Lines & Leaders** are most welcomed.

Ed.



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Housatonic River	248-8616 (HFFA)
Housatonic River Flow	824-7861 (NU)

### Fly-fishing on a Budget - Part II by Anonymous

#### Rod Bags and Cases....

This is easy!!! Cabella's and HT ship their rods in a cloth bags so you do not have to make one for them...but if you do want something a little nicer ask the family seamstress (or Seemster) to sew you up one made of synthetic fur. This costs about \$5 for 3 feet and is very easily sewn into a rod bag by anyone that can sew. Very Basic. Take your rod in it's bag to Home Depot, Homebuilders Warehouse, or Lowes and go to the PVC aisle. You can easily find a tube size that you can place the rod and bag in and it will fit snug. If you want to pack two rods in it then get a slightly bigger tube. You can buy screw-in ends that will allow you to keep the rods in the tubes and not have them slip out the ends. Cut the tube to length and glue on the ends. Give the thing a quick lick with some rough sandpaper and spray paint the whole deal whatever color you want.

Ta Da...a rod travel case!!!!

#### Reel Seats.... for under \$10!!!!

One thing I do appreciate is a nice looking real wood insert on a reel seat..I do not know..it just makes me feel better about my rods...kinda makes me feel like I'm tossing a sweet rod by T&T, Orvis, or one of the slew of high dollar rods. All I do is just change the seat or grip to suit me. It is easy and only cost \$10 for a new seat maybe \$20 for a new seat and grip. I get mine from Cabella's....I like their Walnut reel seat and you can choose from their Cork Grips....

Just take a hack saw and cut off the reel seat the long way being careful not to hit the blank. The blank will travel all the way though the reel seat to the very end of

the rod. So make sure when you are cutting off the old seat to cut the long way...and cut at an angle that will allow you to peel off the reel seat. I sometimes cut in a spiral all the way down the length of the seat. On the plastic reel seats this is very easy to do and takes all of 5 minutes.

After peeling away the old seat, you will see some tape and a little epoxy left on the blank. Light a candle and hold the epoxy over the candle for a few seconds...this makes the epoxy very brittle....You can then just scrape at this with a serrated edged knife. Repeat this until you have removed the majority of the epoxy and tape. Sand the whole area with some rough sand paper until it is semi-smooth.

Get some Duro Master Mend epoxy (\$3) from the Home Depot or Lowes store. You want the kind that sets in 20 minutes...not the quick set 6 minute stuff. You will need a little time to work. Also, get some masking tape that

*Continued on page 4*

#### VIDEO TAPE LIBRARY RULES

- 2 tapes per person.
- \$2 per tape per month.
- Return at fly tying classes, board meetings, monthly meetings, etc. - to any Board member.
- \$2 late fee per tape per month.
- Will only be rented at monthly meetings.
- First come first served.
- Rented after meetings at coffee table.

**Fly-Fishing on a Budget** - continued from page 3

is about 1/2 to 3/4 of an inch wide. Wrap it in a few places around the blank to provide a tight fit...like the original seat had. Try to slip the reel seat over the tape ensuring a good tight fit. When you are satisfied and you feel no "wobble" between the seat and the blank, get ready to mix the epoxy.

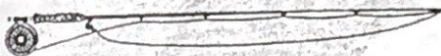
Mix it on a plastic plate according to the directions on the tube...Gunk some of it around the blank and slide the reel seat on until the first wrap of tape on the blank...gunk some more on and slide it until the next wrap of tape....and keep working until the reel seat is all the way on....making sure that everything is lined up the way it should be with the reel lining up well with the first guide. Let it dry and Ta Da....You have a new reel seat!!!!!!

I have done this to a Pflueger Summit, a Fenwick HMG, and the Cabella's Willow Creek all have turned out perfectly!!!! It is an easy way to take a rod that cost under \$50 and make it look much more expensive...not to mention that it makes me feel that my rod is a little more "mine"!!!!

**Fly Tying Tables:**

I got a nice sized piece of Red Oak for a bench top then went to Lowes, Homebuilders Warehouse, or Home Depot and bought a pre-fab Cabinet base for \$30-\$40. It is unfinished and has one drawer and two doors that can be used to store plastic boxes of materials in. I got some of these neat little metal brackets that are used to fasten table tops and put the deal together. Finished it off with a little stain and some high gloss polyurethane and Ta Da...a fly tying bench....I saw some inexpensive formica counter tops that would also do nicely for a top if you wanted a more modern looking table top. I guess you could even lay a piece formica right into the wood table top to create a work space top, but that is more work that I wanted to do.

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**Flytying:**

I decided that in the interest of saving some bucks I would get into tying some of my flies. Notice I said some; I have learned from friends and free tying clinics at some local shops to tie about 5 patterns that we use here in Chattanooga 90% of the time. These five patterns are the "Die Hards" for our area. So, I figure I will learn how to tie them and purchase the other 10% of my flies. I like a book called "The Art of Flytying" by John Van Vliet. I tie the Elk Hair Caddis, WollyBugger, Hare's Ear Nymph, YellarHammer, and BWO's. Easy!!! Vise: Thompson Model A \$40

So there you have it!!!! This is just one individual's outlook on bargain flyfishing equipment. I should call it the Bargain Flyfishing Manifesto!!!

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## A Bit of Velvet

by George Degen

It was Sunday afternoon, June 2nd, and most of CFFA's members had left for home, ending the first "Moorings" weekend. At 4:30pm, my son Jeff and grandson Brad wanted to make a few more casts before their 6:00pm deadline for heading home.

The tide was nearly dead low, but still moving out. It was the lowest I had ever seen Great Pond. Some casts were made but nothing was moving. Suddenly my son called to me, "Get over here, there's a worm hatch starting!" I went over to him and sure enough there were worms all over the place. We captured some in our stripping baskets. They ranged in size from 1 inch to 2½ inches, miniature sand worms. These critters were swimming in the top foot of water and darted erratically a foot or so at a time. By the way, they also bite. Their color is a rusty red and they are black on both ends.

When I think of a worm hatch, I think of tiny squiggly things. Not so; but I think "worm emergence" would better describe what was taking place. Strangely enough, there was nothing happening, not even an occasional splash. We watched and made some casts. Nothing! Jeff finally decided he had to get ready to leave, but he made a parting comment, "Dad, when this chum line of worms gets out into Vineyard Sound, the fish are going to swim right up it and you're going to have a ball. Sorry Brad and I are going to miss it."

I went back to fishing shortly after six, the tide had turned and true to his parting words, fish started

smacking the surface. I put on that Red Velvet Worm pattern with the black head tied by Page Rogers and given to me. (Thanks Page!) Activity increased and shortly all hell broke loose.

I was into fish and would hardly have released a fish when I was into another. They ranged in size from 16" to 24", but most were over 20". This went on for 2 hours with fish on almost all the time. Finally my arm and shoulder were getting tired and I just up and quit. I totalled 18 fish released with a few that were on and off, or pulled out after a while.

I was fishing an intermediate line and upon casting, I was mending up current letting it drift a few feet then I would start an erratic retrieve. At this point the fish would smash the fly and the battle was on.

This was the second worm hatch I was fortunate enough to hit. I thought after reading Kenny Abrahms "Striper Moon" that this phenomenon took place after dark. But both times I've hit it, it was at least 2 or 3 hours before dark and on an incoming tide. The first couple of hours provided the most fantastic fishing. Phil Brunquel and his son Chris happened along and I gave them the pattern and they too caught fish.

Did this happen on the date of the full moon? No! I believe it was two days after, and, get this, it happened again on Monday night, a little later of course. May be this worm hatch bit takes place over several nights.

I wasn't there on Monday night, my wife and I went out to dinner. However, Phil and his son, Chris, along with new club member Bill May of Memphis, Tennessee, hit it and had a great time. It was Bill's first shot at the salt and I'm afraid he is hopelessly hooked. Phil seems to think Bill will fly up next June and join us on the Cape. I got to talk to Bill quite a while and the reason he joined our club was that he was so impressed with our work with kids at Newington and the School for the Deaf. Like Phil, he is a pediatric neurologist and they met at a conclave, whereupon, finding out he was a fly fisherman, Phil invited him to join us on the Cape. A very nice guy, hope to see him next year.

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## At Midnight, Striped Bass Come Out to Play

by Nelson Bryant - Gay Head MA - Reprinted from The New York Times, August 7, 1996

two and the Vic and John went without a hit. The others asked me if we should call it quits. Pointing out that it was our final night, I suggested that we remain a few hours more. The wind became a zephyr, the stars emerged, making it easy to see and a half hour later, the occasional swirls of feeding bass were visible on the smooth, slick water. One by one, the 20 or so other fly fishermen on the beach departed until our quarter was alone.

The tide was racing to the west when Jeff, who had moved down the beach to the eastward, called to me. "A lot of them just started breaking in front of me, Dad," he cried, then added: "I just had a hit. And another. Now I'm hooked up!"

From that point on, fatigue and the evening chill was forgotten. The bass ranged up and down the beach, and for two hours there was never more than 10 minutes when someone wasn't fast to a fish. Not known for his reticence, Houlihan announced each hookup with a standard bellow: "The Houle strikes again!"

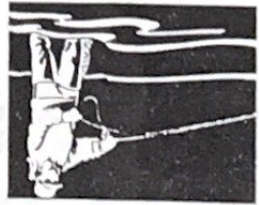
The only extended pause in his announcements came when he hooked himself in his waders and parted the ancient leather belt that held up his striping basket. Jeff rescued him from this predicament, retrieving the fly, which was in a spot inaccessible to its owner, and repairing the belt with some line from a portion of a dragger's net that had been flung high up the beach in a storm.

As often happens after a period of slow angling, we were intoxicated with the excitement of catching and releasing bass, and it wasn't until a fish that seemed heavier than the others broke my leader that I checked my tipper and found that it was badly trayed. While replacing the tipper, it occurred to me that none of us had caught a keeper—at least 34 inches long in Massachusetts. So Jeff and I moved along the beach in quest of a pod of larger fish. We couldn't locate any, however. Most of the stripers we were catching were between 20 and 24 inches long.

It was around 3 o'clock—by then the falling tide was a westward-moving torrent, and bass were feeding close to shore along about 250 yards of the beach—that we converged and took stock. We had caught and released about 50 fish.

"I've had better nights, but not too many of them," I said. *Continued on page 7*

After our first evening of fly fishing for striped bass, I was concerned that the two days my visiting friends—Vic Pomiecko and John Houlihan of Claremont, N.H.—had set aside for angling on Martha's Vineyard with my youngest son, Jeff, and me, was not going to be enough.



We were at the Dogfish Bar area of Lobsterville beach an hour and a half before sundown on our first session and when we departed at 10:30 P.M., Jeff and I had seven small bass between us, but our New Hampshire buddies had none. The fishing had been slow and picky and made difficult by a fog so thick that we could barely see the tips of our rods in the darkness.

At one point there had been about 40 anglers, most of them fly fishers, along two miles of beach, dark figures nudging back and forth in the murk searching for bass and for buddies from whom they had become separated. Four times that night I was asked by a stranger only six feet away if I was someone I wasn't.

At dusk we had seen a few stripers rolling, but not in substantial numbers. My basic explanation for this was that the tide was wrong. Fly fishing for bass from shore at Lobsterville Beach is a dusk and thereafter endeavor, and at Dogfish in particular I have also had my best luck on the falling tide. We had fished the last three hours of slack water until the tide began to drop, but that would have been, I thought, too much for my friends who had risen at dawn to drive down from New Hampshire.

A strong northeast wind ushered in a spit of rain the next day. The forecast called for the wind to shift to the east by late afternoon, but east or northeast winds make fly fishing difficult at Dogfish and Lobsterville beach and I was unhappy. The only optimistic note was a phone call from another friend, Lou Stola of Brewster, Mass., who had waited out the slack water at Dogfish and the bass had moved in shortly before 11 P.M., providing excellent angling for more than an hour.

The wind, which did shift to the east in the afternoon, had eased off somewhat when we arrived at Dogfish the second evening, making a decent cast possible. Again, of course, the tide was rising and it would be after midnight before it started falling to the west. Between 8 and 11:30 P.M., I hooked and lost one fish, Jeff caught

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At Midnight - continued from page 6

Someone suggested that it might be time to go home. "The only thing we haven't done is catch a keeper," I responded. "Give me five minutes more."

I waded out and the others followed. I was fast to a fish on my first cast. "I'm on!" I shouted.

"The Houle strikes again!"

"I've got one, too," Vic yelled.

Jeff, who was to the left of us, shouted, "Hang on a second and I'll make it 100 percent."

A moment later, four rods were arched over Vineyard Sound and although those four bass were a bit larger than any we had previously caught, my hunger for a keeper suddenly seemed unreasonable, and babbling like schoolboys at our good fortune we straggled to our vehicles on a star-lighted path through the dunes that was lined with the ghostly white blooms of *Rosa rugosa*.

**MEMBERSHIP FORM**

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# OCTOBER MEETING: Richard Jogodnick - Pennsylvania Spring Creeks - October 9, 1996

Copy Deadline: Second Wednesday of month previous to publication

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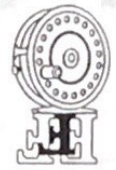
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CFFA Hotline	John Springer	664-3688	

The Connecticut Fly Fishermen's Association, Inc. is organized "To Preserve and Promote the Pleasures and Tradition of Fly Fishing and to Conserve Game-Fish Waters." CFFA membership meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month, September through May. Meetings are held at the Veterans Memorial Clubhouse, Sunset Ridge Drive, East Hartford, CT.

"Lines and Leaders" is the official publication of the Connecticut Fly Fishermen's Association, Inc. and is distributed to its membership and allies of conservation. Business card ads may be placed at a cost of \$5 per ad or \$40 for 9 months. CFFA members may place for-sale or want ads of a non-commercial nature without charge. Newsletter correspondence should be sent to Lynn & Mike Stewart, 10 Bradley Brook, North Granby, CT 06060. Change of address notices should be sent to CFFA, P.O. Box 380268, Silver Lane, East Hartford, CT 06138-0268.

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